



To: The Honorable Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
From: Melissa S. Rock, Birth to Three Strategic Initiative Director &
Re.: **SB 637: Children—Therapeutic Nursery Program—Funding**
Date: February 19, 2020
Position: **SUPPORT**

Therapeutic Nursery Programs (TNP) serve young children identified as having multiple behavioral and emotional problems. It is designed to help those children develop the social emotional skills they need to succeed. Social emotional skills are especially important when young children enter school because they are the skills that allow children to control their impulses and get along well with their peers.

A recent study of TNP explains that:

TNP is a relationship-centered program informed by attachment theory. It aims to alter children's developmental trajectories through identifying and targeting risk factors early on and bolstering protective factors so children can enter kindergarten with increased readiness for learning and improved relatedness to others. The intervention model includes four fundamental tenets: (1) the combination of predictable structure with warmth and emotional attunement, (2) physical and emotional safety, (3) co-regulation from trusted adults, and (4) caregiver support.ⁱ

The study found that 4 out of 5 children from TNPs end up mainstreamed in elementary school.ⁱⁱ Furthermore, participation in individual therapy for the children also correlated with both increased social emotional and math and language skills.ⁱⁱⁱ

By fully funding TNPs, as required by SB 637, we are investing in prevention and save significant expense on these same children later when they are diverted from needing Individualized Education Plans, special education services, and behavioral interventions. **We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on SB 637 to ensure our young children with significant behavioral and emotional needs get the services they need to be better prepared to succeed once they enter school.**

ⁱ Yair Ziv, Kristen L. Capps Umphlet, Inbar Sofri, Stephanie Olarte & Jimmy Venza (2020): Changing developmental trajectory in high-risk families: the effectiveness of an attachment-informed Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP) for preschool children with complex emotional and behavioral problems, Attachment & Human Development, at p. 4. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14616734.2020.1722717>

ⁱⁱ Id. at p. 12.

ⁱⁱⁱ Id.